

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A data management system comprising:
2 a data storage system configured to store data of a plurality of client
3 protected computer systems, wherein the data storage system comprises a
4 plurality of storage devices individually having a respective capacity, and a
5 quantity of the data of the protected computer systems to be stored exceeds
6 capacities of individual ones of the storage devices; and
7 storage control circuitry coupled with the data storage system and
8 configured to assign individual ones of the individual storage devices to store
9 data for respective ones of the protected computer systems.

1 2. The system of claim 1 wherein the storage control circuitry is
2 configured to receive a request to add a new protected computer system and to
3 assign one of the storage devices to implement data storage operations with
4 respect to the new protected computer system.

1 3. The system of claim 2 wherein the storage control circuitry is
2 configured to monitor a status of at least one of the storage devices and to
3 assign the one storage device for the new protected computer responsive to the
4 monitoring.

1 4. The system of claim 3 wherein the monitoring comprises
2 monitoring a processing capacity of an archive agent of the at least one storage
3 device.

1 5. The system of claim 3 wherein the monitoring comprises
2 monitoring a storage capacity of the at least one storage device.

1 6. The system of claim 3 wherein the monitoring comprises
2 monitoring a status of a plurality of the storage devices, and the assigning
3 comprises assigning the storage device having a greatest available capacity.

1 7. The system of claim 1 wherein entireties of the data for the
2 protected computer systems are stored using respective assigned ones of the
3 storage devices.

1 8. The system of claim 7 wherein the entireties of the data comprise
2 an entirety of baseline data and associated delta data for the respective
3 protected computer systems.

1 9. The system of claim 1 wherein the storage control circuitry is
2 configured to assign a plurality of the storage devices to store an entirety of the
3 data for one of the protected computer systems.

1 10. The system of claim 1 wherein the storage control circuitry
2 comprises a tracking database configured to store associations of the storage
3 devices with respective ones of the protected computer systems.

1 11. The system of claim 1 wherein the storage devices comprise disk
2 storage devices.

1 12. The system of claim 1 wherein at least one of the storage devices
2 is configured to store data for a plurality of the protected computer systems.

1 13. The system of claim 1 wherein the storage devices individually
2 comprise an archive agent and a storage space.

1 14. The system of claim 1 wherein the storage control circuitry
2 comprises a master cell manager and at least one slave cell manager, and
3 wherein the master cell manager is configured to assign one of the protected
4 computer systems to one of the storage devices associated with the at least one
5 slave cell manager.

1 15. The system of claim 1 wherein one of the storage devices is
2 configured to transfer data for one of the protected computer systems to an
3 other of the storage devices.

1 16. A data management system comprising:
2 plural means for storing electronic data, wherein individual ones of the
3 plural means for storing comprise a respective data storage capacity;
4 means for communicating data intermediate the plural storage means and
5 a plurality of client protected computer systems, wherein a quantity of data of
6 the client protected computer systems exceeds individual data storage capacities
7 of individual ones of the means for storing; and
8 means for assigning individual ones of the means for storing to store data
9 for respective ones of the client protected computer systems.

1 17. The system of claim 16 wherein the plural means for storing
2 individually comprise means for storing an entirety of the data for a respective
3 one of the client protected computer systems.

1 18. The system of claim 16 wherein plural ones of the means for
2 storing comprise means for storing an entirety of the data for a respective one of
3 the client protected computer systems.

1 19. The system of claim 16 further comprising tracking means for
2 storing information regarding associations of individual ones of the plural means
3 for storing with respective ones of the client protected computer systems.

1 20. The system of claim 16 wherein the plural means for storing
2 individually comprise archive means and physical storage means.

1 21. An article of manufacture comprising:
2 a processor-usable medium comprising processor-usable code configured
3 to cause processing circuitry of storage control circuitry to:
4 access information regarding a plurality of storage devices;

5 access information regarding a plurality of client protected
6 computer systems;
7 associate individual ones of the protected computer systems with
8 respective ones of the storage devices;
9 receive a request to add a new protected computer system;
10 monitor capacities of the storage devices; and
11 assign the new protected computer to one of the storage devices
12 responsive to the monitoring.

1 22. The article of claim 21 wherein the processor-usable code is
2 configured to cause the processing circuitry to associate responsive to user
3 input.

1 23. The article of claim 21 wherein the processor-usable code is
2 configured to cause the processing circuitry to associate responsive to the
3 monitoring.

1 24. A data storage method comprising:
2 providing a plurality of storage devices configured to store data for a
3 plurality of client protected computer systems, wherein the storage devices
4 individually comprise processing circuitry and a storage space;
5 monitoring capacities of individual ones of the storage devices;
6 associating one of the protected computer systems with one of the
7 storage devices responsive to the monitoring; and
8 implementing storage operations of the data for the associated one of the
9 protected computer systems using the associated one of the storage devices in
10 accordance with the associating.

1 25. The method of claim 24 wherein a quantity of data of the
2 protected computer systems to be stored exceeds individual capacities of
3 individual ones of the storage devices.

1 26. The method of claim 24 further comprising maintaining a record of
2 the association of the one storage device and the one client protected computer
3 system.

1 27. The method of claim 24 wherein the monitoring comprises
2 monitoring storage capacities of the storage devices.

1 28. The method of claim 24 wherein the monitoring comprises
2 monitoring processing capacities of the storage devices.

1 29. The method of claim 24 wherein the monitoring and assigning
2 comprise monitoring and assigning using storage control circuitry.

1 30. The method of claim 29 further comprising providing the storage
2 control circuitry comprising a distributed control system.

1 31. The method of claim 24 wherein the associating comprises
2 associating the one protected computer system with the one storage device
3 having a greatest available capacity.

1 32. The method of claim 24 further comprising transferring at least a
2 portion of the data of the one protected computer system from the one storage
3 device to an other storage device.

1 33. A data storage method comprising:
2 a plurality of storage devices configured to store data for a plurality of
3 client protected computer systems, the storage devices individually comprising
4 processing circuitry;
5 storing the data using the storage devices;
6 monitoring capacities of the storage devices using storage control
7 circuitry;
8 providing a new storage device configured to store data for at least one
9 of the protected computer systems; and

10 coupling processing circuitry of the new storage device with the storage
11 control circuitry.

1 34. The method of claim 33 further comprising monitoring capacity of
2 the new storage device using the storage control circuitry after the coupling.

1 35. The method of claim 33 wherein the monitoring comprises
2 monitoring processing capacities of the storage devices.

1 36. The method of claim 33 wherein the monitoring comprises
2 monitoring storage capacities of the storage devices.